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The FP Top 100 Global Thinkers

Congratulations to IPA Affiliates [Abhijit Banerjee](#) and [Esther Duflo](#), who were chosen as #60 of Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers. Below find the excerpt from the magazine; or, read it from the [original source here](#).



Within the world of development economics, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo are known as the "randomistas" for eschewing grandiose solutions to eradicate poverty in favor of randomized field trials. Through their **Poverty Action Lab**, they have studied how the world's poor make economic decisions — in the process redrawing the battle lines between those who call for massive infusions of government aid and those who reject the usefulness of aid altogether.

In their book this year, ***Poor Economics***, Banerjee and Duflo argue that hunger is not solely the result of being unable to afford enough food. Just like every other consumer on the planet, they found, the world's poor purchase goods based on the human desire for short-term pleasure over long-term gain. "What if the poor aren't starving, but choosing to spend their money on other priorities?" they asked in a **Foreign Policy** article this year. From Indonesian villages to rural Morocco, they met people who would fall comfortably within the international definition of hungry, yet were forsaking needed nutrients for better-tasting treats or a DVD player.

What to do? For starters, they suggest leaving the grand, one-size-fits-all solutions where they belong: back at the academy.

BANERJEE

Muse

Voltaire.

Stimulus or austerity?

Stimulus.

America or China?

China.

Arab Spring or Arab Winter?

Spring.

Reading list

Open City, by Teju Cole; *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti*, by Mohammed Hanif; *Shah of Shahs*, by Ryszard Kapuscinski.

DUFLO

Stimulus or austerity?

Stimulus.

America or China?

China.

Arab Spring or Arab Winter?

Spring.

Reading list

Shah of Shahs, by Ryszard Kapuscinski; *Richard III*, by William Shakespeare; *Trespass*, by Rose Tremain.

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